



HISTORICAL COMMISSION AGENDA

Thursday, June 20, 2013

7:30 p.m.

City Hall

Conference Room #4

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes from May 16, 2013

Old Business

1. Two Civil War Movie Updates - May 16th (sold out) and June 27th (upcoming)
2. Next Display Cabinet for Fall/Winter 2013
3. Two New Historical Mural Plaques (Paid for by the Coon Rapids Lions)
4. Final Approval of Scripts and Photos - Handouts at the Meeting
5. Coon Rapids Historical Commission 2013 Field Trip
6. Discussion of New Members

Other Business

Adjourn



Historical Commission - Regular

Meeting Date: 06/20/2013

SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes from May 16, 2013

Attachments

HistoricCommissionMayMinutes

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2013

The May meeting of the Coon Rapids Historical Commission was brought to order by Chairperson Lyle Goff at 7:35 P.M. The May meeting was held in the Civic Room B of the Coon Rapids City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lyle Goff, Robert Powell, Boo Mills, Ron Wendel, Jackie Dingley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tracy Ekberg and Jim Marsolais

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Staff Liaison, Erik Skogquist (Ned Storla on vacation)

Chairperson Goff welcomed residents to the meeting that were there in attendance, 58 in total, for the screening of "From Wasioja to Washington". The film was a joint hosting by the Coon Rapids Historic Commission and the Anoka County Historical Society and was produced by Richard Oxley.

Chairperson Goff discussed what the Commission was about, that there were two openings on the Historical Commission. He then suspended the meeting to have questions and answers with Richard Oxley, the producer, and Michael Eckers, who wrote the book, "The Boys of Wasioja".

Commission Member Powell asked both men in attendance what their next venture might be. Richard and Todd Mahon, the Executive Director of the Historical Society, mentioned that there is a possible State Hospital movie in the works but that is still up in the air. Richard also said maybe there would be a film about Jessie James and the James Gang after the big shoot out to talk about the little known story of what came next, but again that is tentative. Michael Eckers, the author of the book, "The Boys of Wasioja", is writing historical fiction books about the twelve major wars in American history one for each generation from 1776 to the modern time.

A male audience member asked if there were such things as civil war pensions for widows. Michael Eckers acknowledged that there were and many people applied for pensions in the 1890's from the federal government when they first started to be issued. However, before then there were only small ones and they would have been for each individual state.

Todd Mahon asked where Billy Butcher's text came from, who was the main diarist in the movie. Richard said his diary had just come out and was edited by Noel Chester in Coon Rapids and he had a very good diary marking all the marching and the 5,300 miles of marching that had occurred by the Second Minnesota, more than any other unit in the country.

Commission Member Powell wanted to know if Richard's books were age appropriate for children. Richard said his books are appropriate for the young, written at a sixth grade level, and they contain minimal violence.

A female audience member asked about re-enactments that occur in Wasioja. Michael Eckers said the first one was in 2011 and there is another one occurring this year for two days over Father's Day. Another lady audience member asked how many boys from Wasioja signed up for the cause. Michael Eckers said by the end of the war, 39 students had enlisted from the school in Wasioja, 26 of which did not come back.

A man asked if the Minnesota Historical Society's current Civil War exhibit involves this film and Richard Oxley said they do not currently but the Historical Society is open to outside groups and possibly screening of the film. Michael Eckers also stated that Anoka County had many members in the Civil War, some in the Second Minnesota, and some folks might have been from Hennepin County in the Osseo area. But the Anoka County group was mostly in the Eighth Minnesota Regiment and there were 80 men from Anoka County including Aaron Greenwald who is possibly the first man to register for the Union cause.

Chairperson Goff reconvened the Commission Members at 8:14 p.m. for the scheduled Historical Commission Meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 18, 2013 HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES WAS MADE BY ROBERT POWELL AND SECONDED BY JACKIE DINGLEY. The Motion Passed Unanimously.

OLD/OTHER BUSINESS

a. Approval of Wording for Scripts and Plaques

Chairperson Goff opened the discussion on the agenda item on hand which was the approval of the QR Bar Code Scripts for five locations in the City of Coon Rapids. The first script was about the Minnesota Clay Company and the Brick Chimney and it was agreed there were no changes.

The second script was about the Clay Hole in Coon Rapids and it was also agreed there were no changes to this script.

The third script was regarding the Coon Rapids Hydroelectric Power Dam. There was one amendment that was agreed to by the Commission and that was the addition of the mention of some of the homes that were built for workers of the Coon Rapids Dam are still there and in use today.

The fourth script has to deal with the Dunn house. There were two amendments to this script. It had to do with a duplicate paragraph mentioning the interior description of the house that was removed and a typo in the final part of the script to change the word throw to through.

The fifth script had to do with Joyce Chapel. There were no changes at this time to the script, however, it was mentioned by Boo Mills that we perhaps have too much detail about individual members of the church and the pastors of the church. The Commission agreed that well that is possible, people may be interested in the individuals that were part of the church. The Commission agreed that based on whatever photos we have in the archives that we may have to cut the script down if there are no photos of individual people that are mentioned in the script. That can be determined by the CTN Studios, so currently there are no changes to the script.

After the five scripts were reviewed and changes made as needed, Commission Member Powell mentioned the Lions Bus Tour went well. There were 40 plus people even though it was cold the evening of the tour. It started at Lions Park and hit many sites throughout the City with food at three different locations. People said they liked the tour and would do it again. However, they would like to do it if the weather was warm and if possible during the day when there was better lighting.

b. Commission Members discussed that it was a good idea if Boards work together and that this would be a good thing for the Historic Commission as they do many plaques and they work with the Parks in the City of Coon Rapids. Commission Member Powell also wanted to be on record thanking the

City for providing the Appreciation Dinner to the Boards and Commissions and thought it was a very nice gesture.

- c. Commission Member Powell mentioned that there was a restored Historic Steam Locomotive that traveled through Coon Rapids recently (around Mother's Day weekend) up the tracks from St. Paul to Duluth with paying customers aboard. He took photographs of the train going north and coming back south.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOO MILLS SECONDED BY RON WENDEL THAT THE COON RAPIDS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:58 P.M. The Motion Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Storla, Staff Liaison
NS/dm